



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



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Governor

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TO: Health Officers
Immunization Coordinators

FROM: Howard Backer, M.D., M.P.H., Chief
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SUBJECT: New Hepatitis A Recommendations

The hepatitis A vaccine licensure was recently expanded by the Food and Drug Administration from age two to age one year. This expansion affects both vaccines licensed in the United States, Merck's product, VAQTA® and Glaxo Smith Kline's product, Havrix®.

In October 2005, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) also approved expanded recommendations for Hepatitis A Vaccination of Children (http://www.cdc.gov/nip/recs/provisional_rec/s/hepA_child.pdf). In accordance with ACIP, Department of Health Services, Immunization Branch also recommends that all children should receive hepatitis A vaccine beginning at one year of age (i.e., 12-23 months). Vaccination should be completed according to the licensed schedules and integrated into the routine childhood and adolescent vaccination schedule. Children who are not vaccinated by two years of age can be vaccinated at subsequent visits. New efforts focused on routine vaccination of one year old children should enhance, not replace, ongoing programs directed at a broader population of children.

Prior recommendations for statewide childhood immunization with hepatitis A vaccine were limited to California and other states with a higher incidence of hepatitis A disease. Childhood immunization has been very successful in reducing hepatitis A disease in all ages in these states, including California. (See Wasley A, Samandari T, Bell BP. Incidence of hepatitis A in the United States in the era of vaccination. JAMA. 2005 Jul 13; 294:194-201.) Therefore, ACIP is now recommending nationwide childhood immunization with hepatitis A vaccine. In the future, more children moving into California from other states will have been previously immunized with hepatitis A vaccine than in the past, reducing the need for immunization by their new provider in California.

Reporting Hepatitis A Usage

The Monthly Vaccine Usage Report (DHS 8297 1/06) has been revised to include the new age range for hepatitis A vaccine. A copy of the revised Monthly Vaccine Usage Report is enclosed.

Billing Information

CHDP: Claims may be submitted for doses of Hepatitis A given to children at age 1 year on or after October 27, 2005. The CHDP administration fee is \$9.00 using CHDP code **65**. However, providers should wait until notified by CHDP to submit claims. CHDP Provider Notices can be found at: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/chdp/publications.htm>

Medi-Cal: Hepatitis A vaccine is a covered benefit for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. However, a revised *CPT* code for Hepatitis A covering its use in individuals, beginning at 12 months through 18 years of age will be issued. For an interim period, this drug will be billed with CPT-4 code **90749 (unlisted vaccine/toxoid) and modifier -SL (VFC-supplied vaccine)** retroactive to dates of service on or after October 27, 2005. Once the new CPT code is determined, Medi-Cal Providers will be notified through Medi-Cal's **General Medicine (GM) Bulletins**. These bulletins can be found at:
http://files.medical.ca.gov/pubsdoco/Pubsframe.asp?hURL=/pubsdoco/all_bulletins.asp&Type=gm

Enclosures: Monthly Vaccine Usage Report, Revised Hepatitis A VIS

cc: DHS, Immunization Branch Field Representatives